

ment, as should prevent its acceptance by the General Assembly, as the objects to be accomplished are of the highest importance.

I respectfully recommend that acceptance of the same be signified at an early day.

By an amendment to the act, approved on the 14th of April, 1864, the time limited for the acceptance of the donation will expire on the 14th of April, 1866.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

The condition of society produced by the sudden emancipation of the black race, in numbers over one-third of the entire population of the State, and the exemption of this class from the operation of our laws, civil and criminal—except as administered by a military tribunal, instituted by the government of the United States; and also claiming and exercising jurisdiction over all white citizens in matters criminal and civil wherever blacks may be concerned, is at once anomalous and inconsistent with the ancient constitutional authority of the several States. This tribunal, known as the Bureau of Freedmen, was established during the late unhappy war for “the supervision and management of all abandoned lands and the control of all subjects relating to refugees and freedmen from rebel States or from any district within the operations of the army, under such rules and regulations as might be prescribed by the head of the Bureau, and approved by the President” and was “directed to continue during the war of the rebellion and for one year thereafter.”

Its authority is derived from that clause of the Constitution which authorizes Congress “to adopt measures to suppress insurrections,” and ceases when that end shall have been attained. It was obviously designed to be temporary in duration and its continuance, after the designa